

## CLAIMS

1. A method for remotely activating a service channel comprising:
  - 1 using a transport mechanism to send a trigger from a remote client to a host;
  - 5 receiving the trigger;
  - authenticating the trigger; and
  - opening the service channel to allow a connection with the remote host.
2. A method for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 1 wherein  
10 using a transport mechanism to send a trigger further includes using a protocol to format the transport mechanism.
3. A method for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 1 wherein using a transport mechanism to send a trigger further includes using a backscatter effect  
15 as the trigger.
4. A method for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes opening a port.
- 20 5. A method for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes sending a reply to the remote client.
- 25 6. A method for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes spawning a service if the trigger is authenticated.

7. A method for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes establishing a connection between the remote client and a service on the host.

5 8. A method for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 1 wherein opening the service channel on the host further includes receiving a request from the remote client.

9. A method for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 1 wherein 10 opening the service channel on the host further includes sending a response by an operating system on the host to the remote client.

10. A method for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 1 wherein 15 opening the service channel on the host further includes sending an address from the host to the remote client for establishing the connection.

11. A system for remotely activating a service channel comprising:  
a transport mechanism for sending a trigger from a remote client to a host;  
and  
20 a stealth application on the host for receiving the trigger from the remote client, authenticating the trigger on the target host, and opening the service channel on the host to allow a connection with the remote client.

12. A system for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 11 wherein 25 the transport mechanism is installed on the host.

13. A system for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 11 wherein the trigger is a data packet.

14. A system for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 11 wherein  
the trigger is a pre-defined sequence of packets.

15. A system for remotely activating a service channel as recited in claim 11 wherein  
the trigger is a backscatter data packet.

16. A method for remotely activating a service channel comprising:  
receiving a trigger at a port on a host;  
suppressing a response to the trigger;  
authenticating the trigger; and  
opening the port on the host if the trigger is authenticated.

17. A method for remotely activating a service channel comprising:  
Sending a pre-defined trigger to a port on a host;  
Waiting for a pre-defined time period;  
Sending a connection request to the port on the host after the pre-defined time  
period has expired; and  
Establishing a connection over the service channel with the host.

18. A method for remotely activating a service channel comprising:  
receiving a trigger at a service port on a host remotely communicating with a  
server;  
directing an operating system to suppress sending a response to the trigger;  
authenticating the trigger based on a characteristic of the trigger; and  
opening the service port on the host to permit a connection to occur over the  
service channel.

19. A computer program product for remotely activating a covert service channel, the  
computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and  
comprising computer instructions for:

using a transport mechanism to send a trigger from a remote host to a target host;

5 receiving the trigger by a stealth application on the target host;

authenticating the trigger on the target host; and

opening the covert service channel on the target host to allow a connection with the remote host.

10 20. A data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising:  
instructions for using a transport mechanism to send a trigger from a remote host to a target host;

10 instructions for receiving the trigger by a stealth application on the target host;

host;

instructions for authenticating the trigger on the target host; and

instructions for opening the covert service channel on the target host to allow a connection with the remote host.

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